

Attorney's Docket No.:06618-664001

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above application are respectfully requested. As an initial matter, Applicant gratefully acknowledges Examiner's allowance of newly added Claims 40-51.

Claims 22 and 23 have been amended to change the claim dependency from Claim 19 to Claim 18. Claim 41 has been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter is added. Claims 1-18 and 20-51 remain pending. Claims 7-14, 20, 21, and 27-38 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Patent Office.

Claims 1-4, 15-18, 24-26 and 39 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by newly cited Hashimoto. This contention, however, is respectfully traversed because Hashimoto fails to disclose each feature in these claims.

Claim 1, for example, recites a processing circuit in combination with a photoreceptor circuit and an optical system. This recited processing circuit is "to produce pulsed outputs at timings that are dependent on changes of said image information." Hashimoto completely fails to provide any teaching or suggestion on this feature.

In Hashimoto's devices, pulses are used in driving the scanning mirror motor and the timing of these pulses is derived from external synchronization signals as shown in Fig 2 in Hashimoto. This timing information is not obtained from the image data. Therefore, Hashimoto does not teach or disclose the processing circuit in Claim 1.

The Office Action cites Col. 5, lines 3-11 in Hashimoto to support the rejection. This part of Hashimoto explains how the parameters of Hashimoto's distortion cancellation scheme are determined as a function of zoom lens type, lens magnification

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and the content of a system ROM. Nothing in the cited description in Hashimoto relates to generation of pulses by the image sensor. Hashimoto certainly does not suggest in any way timings of pulses that "are dependent on changes of said image information."

For example, Hashimoto in Col. 5, lines 9-11 explains that the magnification setting of a zoom lens can be determined by counting the number of pulses applied to the pulse motor that drives the zoom lens. These pulses have nothing to do with generation of "pulsed outputs at timings that are dependent on changes of said image information" as recited in Claim 1.

Therefore, Hashimoto does not provide any support for the rejections under 35 USC 102(b). It appears that the Hashimoto rejections are based on an incorrect reading of technical features described in Hashimoto. Accordingly, Claim 1 is distinctly different from and thus is patentable over Hashimoto.

For at least the above reasons, Claims 2-4, which depend on Claim 1, are also patentable over Hashimoto.

Claim 15 is patentable over Hashimoto because Hashimoto fails to disclose the recited operations in Claim 15. More specifically, Claim 15 recites "processing said image information acquired by said first element, to obtain temporal information about said image information." Hashimoto certainly does not teach these features.

Once again, the Patent Office specifically cites the description in Col. 5, lines 3-11 to support the rejection. Contrary to contention of the Patent Office, this part of Hashimoto explains how the parameters of Hashimoto's distortion cancellation scheme are determined as a function of zoom lens type, lens magnification and the content of a system ROM. Nothing in the cited description in Hashimoto relates to processing said image information acquired by said first

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element, to obtain temporal information about said image information. Therefore, Claim 15 and its dependent claims 16 and 17 are distinctly patentable over Hashimoto.

Claim 18 recites a processing circuit "producing an output indicative of temporal fluctuations of information received by said photoreceptor element resulting from spatial features in said incoming scene moving over said photoreceptor circuit." The Patent Office alleges that Col. 5, lines 3-13 in Hashimoto discloses recited features. Applicant disagrees because this part of the disclosure in Hashimoto describes distortion ratios and has nothing to do with "temporal fluctuations of information received by said photoreceptor element resulting from spatial features in said incoming scene moving over said photoreceptor circuit. Hence, Claim 18 is patentable over Hashimoto." Accordingly, dependent Claims 24-26 for the base claim 18 are also patentable over Hashimoto.

Turning now to Claim 39, the Patent Office cites Col. 6, lines 27-44 in Hashimoto to support its rejection. The text in Col. 6, lines 27-44 describes image correction through a variable magnification process. This description in Hashimoto is not relevant to "generating and processing temporal pulses from each photoreceptor caused by the movement to extract spatial features in said electromagnetic energy" as recited in Claim 39. Therefore, the Patent Office fails to make a prima facie showing of anticipation of Claim 39 based on Hashimoto. Accordingly, Claim 39 is patentable.

The Patent Office further rejects Claims 5-6 and 22-23 under 35 USC 103(a) over Hashimoto in view of McJohnson. Claims 5-6 depend on Claim 1 and Claims 22-23 depend on Claim 18. As discussed above, Hashimoto fails to teach various features in Claims 1 and 18. Consequently, Hashimoto fails to teach these features in Claims 5-6 and 22-23. McJohnson does not fill in

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the voids left by the disclosure of Hashimoto. As an example, the signal conditioner (21) in McJohnson does not produce pulses encoding the timing of specific signal patterns. Instead, the entire waveform produced by the signal conditioner (21) is passed to an A/D converter and further processed using a correlation approach.

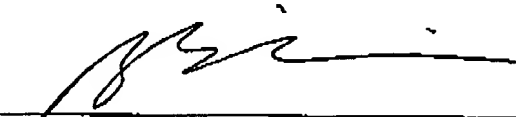
Hence, the alleged combination of Hashimoto and McJohnson does not disclose or suggest each feature of Claims 5-6 and 22-23. Claims 5-6 and 22-23 are patentable.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully suggests that the Patent Office fails to make a prima facie showing of anticipation and obviousness based on the prior art on record. Therefore, all pending claims under consideration are patentable and are in condition for allowance.

No fee is believed to be due for filing this response. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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